

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-18. (cancelled)

19. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article comprising an outer layer and an inner core, wherein:

(a) the outer layer is a coating retaining the structural integrity of the inner core and consisting of :

- at least one polymeric component selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic cellulose polymers, acrylate (co)polymers, polyvinyl-pyrrolidone, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate), and
- optionally at least one plasticizer for the said polymeric component,

(b) the inner core fills said outer layer and comprises:

- at least a biologically active ingredient, and
- an excipient for the said biologically active ingredient, said excipient comprising at least one hydrophilic cellulose polymer and an amphiphilic material, wherein the weight ratio of said hydrophilic cellulose polymer to said amphiphilic material is from 0.2 : 1 to 0.6 : 1.

20. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the hydrophilic cellulose polymer of the inner core is hydroxy-propylmethylcellulose.

21. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the amphiphilic material of the inner core has both a portion derived from a glyceride and a portion derived from a polyethylene glycol ester.

22. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the hydrophilic cellulose polymer of the inner core is hydroxy-propylmethylcellulose and wherein the amphiphilic material of the inner core has both a portion derived from a glyceride and a portion derived from a polyethylene glycol ester.

23. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the hydrophilic cellulose polymer of the inner core is hydroxy-propylmethylcellulose and wherein the weight ratio of the hydrophilic cellulose polymer to the amphiphilic material in the blend of the inner core is from 0.3 : 1 to 0.6 : 1.

24. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the content of the biologically active ingredient in the inner core is in a range

from 0.1 to 50 % by weight.

25. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the content of the hydrophilic cellulose polymer in the inner core is in a range from 10 to 40 % by weight.

26. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the content of the amphiphilic material in the inner core is in a range from 30 to 85 % by weight.

27. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the polymeric component of the outer layer is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic cellulose polymers, acrylate (co)polymers, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate) and mixtures thereof.

28. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the hydrophilic cellulose polymer of the inner core is hydroxy-propylmethylcellulose and wherein the polymeric component of the outer layer is selected

from the group consisting of hydrophobic cellulose polymers, acrylate (co)polymers, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate) and mixtures thereof.

29. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the polymeric component of the outer layer is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic cellulose polymers, acrylate (co)polymers, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate) and mixtures thereof.

30. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the polymeric component of the outer layer is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic cellulose polymers, acrylate (co)polymers, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate) and mixtures thereof and wherein the plasticizer for the polymeric component of the outer layer is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, polyols, esters formed between glycerol and acetic acid, sugars, glycol glycoside, poly(ethylene glycol), fatty acids and esters thereof with polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, phthalate esters, sebacate esters, and mixtures thereof.

31. (new) A biologically active composite solid shaped article according to claim 19, wherein the biologically active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of therapeutic agents, diagnostic agents, cosmetic agents, prophylactic agents, insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, plant growth regulators, fertilisers, crop treatment agents, anti-microbial agents, fungicides and bactericides.

32. (new) A process for making the core material of a biologically active formulation, comprising extruding a blend of at least a biologically active ingredient, at least a hydrophilic cellulose polymer and at least an amphiphilic material, the weight ratio of the hydrophilic cellulose polymer to the amphiphilic material in the said blend being from 0.2:1 to 0.6:1, at a temperature within the range from 20 °C to 60 °C.

33. (new) A process according to claim 32, wherein said hydrophilic cellulose polymer is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

34. (new) A process according to claim 32, wherein said biologically active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of therapeutic agents, diagnostic agents, cosmetic agents, prophylactic agents, insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, plant growth regulators, fertilisers, crop treatment agents, anti-microbial agents, fungicides and bactericides.

35. (new) A process for making of a biologically active formulation comprising an inner core and an outer layer, the said process comprising:

- extruding a blend of at least a biologically active ingredient, at least a hydrophilic cellulose polymer and at least an amphiphilic material, the weight ratio of the hydrophilic cellulose polymer to the amphiphilic material in the said blend being from 0.2:1 to 0.6:1, at a temperature within the range from 20 °C to 60 °C, and
- co-extruding the said blend with the components of the outer layer.

36. (new) A process according to claim 35, wherein said hydrophilic cellulose polymer is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

37. (new) A process according to claim 35, wherein said biologically active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of therapeutic agents, diagnostic agents, cosmetic agents, prophylactic agents, insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, plant growth regulators, fertilisers, crop treatment agents, anti-microbial agents, fungicides and bactericides.